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THE GULL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Volume 55 Berkeley, California May 1973 Number 5

Laysan Albatross — Photo by Mal Raff

MZIMA SPRINGS FILM

GGAS MEMBERS have a rare opportunity to see one of the finest eolor films on the ecology of East Africa at the May general meeting, to be held on **Thursday, May 10,** at **7:30 P.M.** at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. *Mzima Springs,* filmed by Alan Root, is about the intrieate web of life that eenters around a natural oasis in the dry Kenyan brush eountry. Amazing underwater shots of eroeodiles, hippos, and Afriean Darters are juxtaposed to the numerous colorful birds and animals that frequent the terrestrial habitats around the springs. Adrian Luekhurst, a Kenya resident who is a full-time nature safari leader, will be on hand to provide up-to-date information on East Afriean wildlife.

LAUREL REYNOLDS FILM TO HIGHLIGHT GGAS JUNE DINNER MEETING

THE ANNUAL GGAS DINNER MEETING will be held on Thursday, **May 31,** in the Vista Room of the Lakeside Garden Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland. The program will feature Laurel Reynolds, nationally known photographer and leeturer, who will present her wildlife film, *The New World Rediscovered.* Ineluded are brilliant semi-tropieal birds of the Caribbean islands and the Florida peninsula, Texas eoastal wildlife, whales, and sea otters.

Those who plan to attend should try to arrive about **6:30.** A punch bowl will be set out to attraet birders, eonservationists, neweomers, and regulars. Dinner will begin at **7 P.M.** The deadline for reservations is **May 28.** For reservations, write to Maude Erieson, 222 La Salle Avenue, Piedmont, California 94610 (832-2330). Please elip or eopy the form below and send it to Mrs. Ericson with a eheek payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety. Tickets will not be sent. A list will be at the door. Your eheek is your reeeipt.

Enelosed is my eheek for $..... for ..... dinners at $5.00 eaeh.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

JULY PICNIC MEETING

EVERYONE should keep **Saturday, July 21** open on their calendar for a pienie/general meeting at Sigmund Stern Grove, Sloat and 19th Avenues in San Franeiseo. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the membership to meet one another and the newly eleeted offieers. We have the east meadow reserved from noon until 6 P.M., and a ehareoal fire will be kept going for those who wish to bring some meat to barbeeue. Bring lunch and binoeulars. Informal bird walks will be held, and other aetivities are being planned. Questions should be direeted to Ray Higgs, (355-6264).

FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY

Friday, May 4-Sunday, May 6: a eamping trip to PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT. Campsite number two in Chalone Annex Group Campground has been reserved for us on Friday and Saturday nights. Birding trips will start eaeh day at **8 A.M.** Drive via U.S. 101 south to Gilroy; then take state highway 25 through Hollister and south to the Pinnaeles. Driv-

ing time: about three hours. For further details, see April *Gull*. Leader: Warren Larsen (525-9149).

Sunday, May 13: MT. DIABLO to see Black-chinned and Sage Sparows. Approach via Mt. Diablo Road out of Danville. Meet at **8 A.M.** about a half mile before the south ranger station. Leader: John Hollis (526-8685).

Thursday, May 17: MT. DIABLO. Same as above, but meet at **8:30 A.M.** about two miles before the south ranger station at the beginning of the chaparral area. There is a large turn-out on the left. Watch for leader along the road. Leader: Larry Curl (939-5841).

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20: HETCH HETCHY. A joint camping and field trip with the Yosemite Natural History Assoication suitable for familes with children. There will be a moderate amount of mountain driving and a four-mile hike to Lueeulala Falls. We should see most of the California flycatchers, wrens, and warblers. Meet at **9 A.M. Saturday** and **8 A.M. Sunday** at the Big Oak Flat entrance station to Yosemite. Check the entrance-station bulletin board for our whereabouts if you miss us. Drive via highway 120 through Tracy, Manteca, Oakdale, and Groveland. Camp at Hodgdon Meadow Campground (one mile inside park) or the Forest Service campground on highway 120 at Evergreen Road. If you prefer to stay at a motel, make reservations now at Rush Creek Motel, highway 120, California (209 379-2622) or at Sugar Pine Ranch, 20 miles west in Groveland, California (209 962-7823). Leader: Marie Mans, 3712 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, California 94549 (284-7681).

Saturday, May 26: GLEN ELLEN in the Valley of the Moon in Sonoma County. Meet at **8 A.M.** in the town of Glen Ellen on highway 12 at the Jack London Lodge. We'll bird along the creek for chats and other warblers and in Jack London State Park. The raneh is no longer available to us. Leader: Val da Costa (931-5257).

Sunday, May 27: BOLINGER CANYON. Take highway 24 east from Oakland, exit at Orinda, and dirve to the town of Moraga. Turn left and meet at **8 A.M.** at the entrance of St. Mary's College. We should see warblers and vireos. Leader: Pete Allen (781-0148).

Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. Come on a combination ecology and bird trip to Yosemite Valley. Meet at **9 A.M.** each day in front of the Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. Park behind the village stores. Bring lunch. If you have not made your overnight reservations, do so now with Yosemite Park and Curry Company, Yosemite National Park, California. See March *Gull* for details. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588).

Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17: YUBA PASS. We will camp at the Chapman Creek campground. Or make reservations now at Sid's motel in Sierraville (916 994-8992) or at the Gateway Motel or the Monzo-Alpine Village in Truckee. Further details in June *Gull*.

Dates to hold: **July 14-15:** Echo Lake in the Sierra; **July 28:** bus trip down the south Peninsula coast.

Don't forget the no-leader trips: TILDEN PARK—meet at the Little Farm at **9 A.M.** on **Thursday, May 10;** GOLDEN GATE PARK—meet at the Academy of Sciences at **9 A.M.** on **Wednesday, May 30.**

SANTA CRUZ PELAGIC TRIP

MAC'S ALBATROSS EXPEDITION, an annual Santa Cruz Bird Club event, will leave the Santa Cruz municipal wharf at 7:30 A.M. on June 11. GGAS members are invited to come along to see Black-footed Albatross and other pelagic species. Make reservations by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2.00 for each ticket to Viola Anderson, 227 Linden Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

ANYONE FOR AUSTRALIA?

RESPONSE HAS BEEN QUITE GOOD to the Golden Gate Audubon Natural History Tour to Australia and New Zealand, leaving September 26, 1973. If you are interested in going, you should take action soon because the tour may be filled within the next month. For information, write Siemer and Hant, Ltd., One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, California 94111, or call (415) 788-7168.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

HOW LONG CAN NATURE LOVERS and environmentalists accept the nature-faking and distortion portrayed in some of the commercially sponsored outdoor adventure movies shown on television (and sometimes on theater circuits)? I am referring in particular to the episode of "Escape" shown on local channels four and eight Sunday evening, March 25th. In an era of presumed biological enlightenment, when leading conservation organizations and millions of Americans are trying to save the mountain lion and other large predators, here was a fireside TV epic of a lion "monster" who terrorized two children lost in the mountains of Southern California. This shocking, misconceived production appeared, unfortunately, on a network that brings us such splendid nature programs as "Audubon Wildlife Theatre", "Animal Kingdom" and many true-life documentaries. Perhaps the local station program managers were unaware of the contents of this offensive story.

Now we learn from a Sierra Club March press release that low aircraft flights during the recent filming of "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" may have caused the drowning of some sea otter pups off the Monterey coast. Other low flights for filming the Sespe Condor Sanctuary and the pelican colonies on Anacapa Island lead Assemblyman Bob Wood of Monterey County to introduce AB 15 to amend the fish and game code to ban flights below 1000 ft. over such refuges.

We have had mixed emotions concerning Senator Moscone's bill (SB 187) to ban all wildlife importations into California for pet sale, as many endangered species both American and exotic are already prohibited to this trade. Our mail from other conservation groups and discussions with other naturalists veterinarians, and zoo curators lean heavily in favor of this legislation. It's another case of a trade that cannot or will not regulate its abuses; for example, the offering of American red foxes, exotic birds of prey, and even poisonous snakes for house-hold pets.

Audubon Conservation Topics West for March, 1973, lauds Assemblyman Walter Karagian and Howard Leach of State Fish and Game

for securing passage in 1970 of the California Species Preservation Act, whieh is well deserved. It is tragic that despite sueh heroic efforts by fellow-Californians wholesale wildlife killers like the open valley oil sumps remain (see the GGAS "Hotline", our first issue, Mareh 15th). We also just learned of another major wildlife killer designed and operated by our State Department of Water Resourees with federal assistanee. That is the great new California Aqueduct, whieh brings Feather River water to Los Angeles and the desert. They forgot to build into it animal eseape ramps, so many animals ineluding the endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox are drowning vietims, aeeording to a reliable sourec.

I must eonfess to being too pessimistic in assuming that Harbor Isles Homes in Alameda and Mountain Village in Oakland were "inevitable." The first was reeently turned down by a new politieal slate in Alameda and the seeond by Alameda County Superior Judge Spurgeon Avakian.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

FIFTY PEOPLE spent the day at beautiful Kirby Cove and Fort Cronkite. A total of 45 speeies were seen, ineluding Allen and Anna Hummingbirds, Varied Thrush, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Purple Fineh, and a Ruby-erowned Kinglet with his ruby crown showing. The party enjoyed espeeially elose views of a Pigeon Guillemot and Red-breasted Merganser. There were also many wildflowers, ineluding California poppies, mallows, brodaea, and shooting stars.

About 40 people partieipated in the trip to Livermore and Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. They birded first in Veteran's Park in Livermore and found Audubon's, Myrtle, and Orange-crowned Warblers, both the Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatehes, Plain Titmouse, "Red-breasted" Sapsueker, Cedar Waxwing, and Ameriean Goldfinehes among the beautiful syeamore trees. Cliff Swallows were nesting in the eaves of the buildings. A Golden Eagle was also seen overhead. At Shadow Cliffs, they saw Cinnamon Teal, Green Heron, Nuttall's Woodpeeker, and Greater Yellowlegs, for a day's total of about 40 speeies.

Some 40 bird-watehers made the long journey to Honey Lake in Lassen County and braved the cold and, at times, snow and sleet. They were rewarded with views of over 50 eourting male Sage Grouse. After much hard work, many also got to see several very elusive Lapland Longspurs, which ranged from winter plumage to almost full breeding plumage. Other trip highlights were: some 350 Whistling Swans, ten Common Mergansers, nine Rough-legged Hawks (ineluding one dark phase), four Golden Eagles (two adults and two immatures), two Bald Eagles (one adult and one immature), a Great-horned Owl sitting on a nest, two Short-eared Owls, two Lewis' Woodpeckers, one adult Northern Shrike, and five Sage Sparrows singing. With eontinued effort on the seeond day, Bob and Carol Yutzy found several Chestunt-eollared Longspurs almost in full breeding plumage, and on their way home, the much looked for Prairie Faleon.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Blue-winged Teal, March 14, Coyote Hills Park—AP.
European Widgeon, March 26-27, Honey Lake—VR, PM.
Barrow's Goldeneye, March 23, Berkeley Aquatic Park—ST.
Common Merganser male, March 23, Berkeley Aquatic Park—ST.
Swainson's Hawk, March 23, Coyote Hills Park—ST.
Rough-legged Hawk, March 20, Grizzly Island—WMP, AM *et. al.*
Osprey, March 8, over Mt. View Cemetery, Oakland—JM; March 26, Moss Beach—JH; Bodega Bay & Duncan's Mills in March—WMP, AM.
Common Gallinule, March 25, Olema Marsh, Pt. Reyes area—VR, DR.
Surfbird, 25, April 2, Oakland, on rocks near Bay Bridge Toll Plaza—VS, VH.
Wandering Tattler in breeding plumage, March 26, Moss Beach—JH.
Roadrunner, 2, March 21, Mines Rd. south of Livermore—ST; 2 in same area, March 24—JR, MJG.
Saw-whet Owl, March 25, Tomales Bay State Park—VR, DR.
Many reports of *Rufous Hummingbirds* at feeders in Feb. & March (as a substitute for eucalyptus blossoms?).
Yellow-shafted Flicker male, mid-Dec. thru Feb. in San Francisco backyard on 10th Ave. (black mustache, red nape, yellow wing linings) —BMo; Feb. 23, Glen Canyon Park, S.F.—DH.
Purple Martin female, April 2, near Lake Merritt—ST.
Yellow Warbler male, March 6, San Francisco garden (close enough to see reddish streaks on breast)—EP.
Evening Grosbeak, 20, March 2, Martinez—AB, JR; 1, March 23, Oakland hills—VR; 1, Orinda, March 26—VR, PM; 6, March 31, Hayward & Oakland; 1, April 1 & 3, Oakland—ST. The Sequoia Audubon bulletin reported Evening Grosbeaks in San Carlos (Feb.) and Belmont (March).
Cassin's Finch, singing male, March 31, near Jewel Lake, Tilden Park—ST.
Red Crossbill, pair, March 22, Golden Gate Park at North Lake—JR.
White-throated Sparrow, Feb. 21-March 28, Oakland garden—DO; Feb. 28, Golden Gate Park Arboretum—JM; March 12, Oakland hills—VR; March 21, near Livermore—ST.
We have stopped publishing observations of falcons. They need protection —not local publicity.

Observers: Al Boileau, Mary Jane Greene, Dave Hobbs, John Hollis, Alice Mericourt, Joe Morlan, Bruce Morrison, Pete Myers, Dorothy Orr, Eleanor Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Wm. M. Pursell, Van Remsen, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Virginia Sherwood, Scott Terrill.—Vi Homem, *Observations Chairman.*

CANYON RANCH NEWS

SOME CONCERN has been expressed over the possibility that school children using the new catwalk in front of the Ranchhouse at Audubon Canyon might disturb nesting Redwing Blackbirds.

The Volunteer Council has used the Garden Club Canyon pond instead this spring, reserving the catwalk for fall use, so that we can accurately survey the Blackbird nesting pattern. On the basis of what we learn, we will deeide when the Audubon Canyon marshes can be used for teaching.

PIGEON INFO NEEDED

A CONSERVATION STUDENT at U.C. Berkeley working with A.S. Leopold, is interested in gathering information about band-tailed pigeons using bird feeders in the East Bay area. The resident population of pigeons appears to have increased in the past years, and the role that bird feeders have had in this increase is what the student is trying to ascertain. If you or any friends have feeders being visited by band-tails, Michael would like to hear from you. Write or call (eves.): Miehael Monroe, 1834 Delaware St., Berkeley, California 94703, (848-5068).

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of:*
Beatrice Thomas	Florence I. Plymell
Jessie M. Muir	Dr. & Mrs. Jack Cathcart
In Honor of:	*Gift of:*
Ed Eichstedt	Skyline Garden Club

Dr. Albert Boles, *Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland 94610 (451-6267)

LAYSAN ALBATROSS IN ALAMEDA

AT 5 A.M. LAST MARCH 12, patrols at the Alameda Naval Air Station found an apparently healthy Laysan Albatross walking down the strect. Although this sighting can't really be called a "record," since evidence indicates the bird stowed away aboard a Navy ship, this is still the first recorded instance of the species on mainland California.

Fortunately, the bird fell into the hands of Mal and Marilyn Raff, associated with the International Bird Rescue Research Center. They've literally turned their tiny cottagc into a bird hospital. Among the 125 or so birds they are currently treating are the Albatross, 2 Common Murres, a Rhinoceros Auklet, a Brown Pelican, a Barn Owl, several hummers, and a White-throated Sparrow. They are always available for new patients, and they ask that you call them immediately, any time, night or day, if you find an ill or injured bird. Remember that a short delay can often mean a dead or deformed bird. They have all the necessary permits, a great deal of love and skill, and the support and facilities of the Berkeley Humane Society. Their main objective is to return birds to the breeding population as soon as possible. They're performing a fine service, one we should all support. They can be reached at 843-2032. And call them if you can donate time or money, or if you'd just like to see the birds.

Tentative plans call for the Albatross to bc released on the Cooper Society pelagic trip to the Farallones on April 22.—*Bill Principe*

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Vice President	Raymond Higgs	340 Espanada Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044	355-6264
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Director	Mrs. Leonard Machlis	1871 Thousand Oaks Bl., Berkeley 94707	525-8473
Director	Mrs. Donald H. McLaughlin	1450 Hawthorne Ter., Berkeley 94708	848-0699
Editor	Steve Whitney	2931 Florence St., Berkeley 94705	
Program Chairman	Peter White	24900 Santa Clara Ave., Hayward 94544	782-3505
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BAAC Delegate	Mr. Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership—Local & National $12 per year, (individual); $15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately $2 per year. High school & college student membership $6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.